



## 1 La Placita (The Plaza)

Cradled between Sonora Town and Chinatown, the Plaza became the center of immigrant life in Los Angeles. As immigrants arrived in the city, often to find jobs, they brought with them various working-class social and political movements and traditions, including anarchist and libertarian thought. The Plaza and surrounding areas soon became the hub of radical life in Los Angeles. The various radical groups active in the area included Partido Liberal Mexicano (PLM), the Industrial Workers of the World, and the Socialist Party. Chinese revolutionaries also utilized the space to plot the eventual overthrow of the Chinese government. In 1909, when the city passed an ordinance that would ban free speech, the Plaza became the battleground for the free speech movement.

### 1a Arrest of Lazaro Gutierrez de Lara and Miguel Lozano

On October 10, 1909, during a protest held at the Plaza against the Mexican dictator, Porfirio Diaz, police arrested the key speaker, Lazaro Gutierrez de Lara. A conflict ensued where several anarchists and members of the Partido Liberal Mexicano (PLM) were arrested. One of those ar-

rested was Miguel Lozano, a Cuban anarchist. Protests over the arrests continued throughout the night and several attempts were made to kill two officers responsible for the arrests. Over the next few days, police continued to arrest anyone that spoke out against the Diaz regime or the recent arrests.

Gutierrez de Lara and Lozano were eventually handed over to deportation to their native countries for being anarchists. However, Gutierrez de Lara was able to prove he was merely a socialist and was released. Lozano refused to deny his politics and was sent back to Cuba.

### 1b 117 Marchessault St. (Murder of Leonidas Gutierrez)

On August 12, 1912, a half-hour after an I.W.W. gathering in the Plaza, LAPD patrolmen attempted to detain a rally participant for allegedly being a pickpocket. The man managed to escape several times, fleeing into Quirros Café. When the police attempted to follow suit, spectators met them with resistance. Police opened fire on the spectators killing Leonidas Gutierrez, a Mexican anarchist, and member of the IWW. Gutierrez allegedly gained police attention previously by being involved in an attempt to kill President Taft and Mexican President Diaz in El Paso, Texas. He moved to Los Angeles, staying at the National Hotel on the southwest side of the Plaza. He became a regular speaker at IWW events at the Plaza.

### 1c Christmas Day Riot (Murder of Rafael Adames)

On Christmas Day, 1913, a rally was being held in the Plaza to support workers rights. The police attempted to break up the event but the crowd soon became unruly when a policeman pulled a chair from underneath one of the speakers. In response to the protests, police began assaulting the crowd with their clubs. The protest quickly turned into a riot and the police opened fire into the crowd. A Mexican anarchist and member of the I.W.W., Rafael Adames was shot. His body was taken to the nearby I.W.W. office where